

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-10. (canceled)

Claim 11. (original) A method for coding information consisting of symbol sequences containing symbols which occur with different probabilities, comprising the steps of:
mapping said symbols to binary code words, each having a plurality of bit positions; and
in said mapping, sorting said symbols dependent on their respective probability of occurrence, and allocating a natural code words to said symbols to obtain sorted symbols, and allocating a natural binary code to said sorted symbols.

Claim 12. (original) A method as claimed in claim 11 wherein the step of sorting said symbols comprises sorting a substantial proportion of said symbols, thereby obtaining a substantial proportion of sorted symbols, and comprising allocating said natural binary code to said substantial proportion of sorted symbols.

Claim 13. (original) A method as claimed in claim 11 wherein the step of sorting said symbols comprises sorting all of said symbols, and allocating said natural binary code to all of said sorted symbols.

Claim 14. (original) A method as claimed in claim 11 wherein the step of allocating said natural binary code comprises:

allocating a code word which exhibits a first binary value at all bit positions to a symbol which occurs most frequently; and

allocating a code word which exhibits a second binary value at all positions to a symbol occurring most infrequently.

Claim 15. (original) A method as claimed in claim 11 comprising producing said symbol sequences from a source encoding.

Claim 16. (original) A method as claimed in claim 11 comprising interchanging bit positions of code words obtained from said mapping.

Claim 17. (original) A method as claimed in claim 11 wherein said symbol sequences contain redundant information, and comprising decoding said natural binary code using said redundant information as a priori information for determining respective values of said bit positions.

Claim 18. (original) A method as claimed in claim 11 wherein said symbol sequences contain redundant information, and comprising decoding said natural binary code using said redundant information as a posteriori information for determining respective values of said bit positions.

Claim 19. (original) A method as claimed in claim 11 wherein said bit positions of said code words contain redundant information, and comprising decoding said natural binary code using said redundant information as a priori information for determining respective values of said bit positions.

Claim 20. (original) A method as claimed in claim 11 wherein said bit positions of said code words contain redundant information, and comprising decoding said natural binary code using said redundant information as a posteriori information for determining respective values of said bit positions.

Claim 21. (original) A signal processing arrangement for coding information consisting of symbol sequences containing symbols which occur with different probabilities, comprising the steps of:

mapping said symbols to binary code words, each having a plurality of bit positions; and

in said mapping, sorting said symbols dependent on their respective probability of occurrence, and allocating a natural code words to said symbols to obtain sorted symbols, and allocating a natural binary code to said sorted symbols.

Claim 22. (original) A signal processing arrangement as claimed in claim 21 wherein said symbol sequences contain redundant information, and comprising decoding said natural binary code using said redundant information as a priori information for determining respective values of said bit positions.